

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn) A method for regulating cold and dehydration regulatory genes in a plant comprising the steps of:

introducing at least one copy of a regulatory gene encoding a protein into a plant;
expressing the binding protein encoded by the regulatory gene; and
using the expressed binding protein to stimulate expression of at least one environmental stress tolerance gene through binding to a DNA regulatory sequence.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method for regulating cold and dehydration regulatory genes in a plant comprising the steps of:

introducing DNA encoding a binding protein capable of binding to a DNA regulatory sequence into a plant;
introducing a promoter into a plant which regulates expression of the binding protein;
introducing a DNA regulatory sequence into a plant to which a binding protein can bind; and
introducing one or more environmental stress tolerance genes into a plant whose expression is regulated by a DNA regulatory sequence.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for regulating ~~cold~~ and dehydration regulatory genes in a plant comprising the steps of:
- a) providing a plant transformed with a gene encoding a transcription regulating protein encoded by ~~a sequence that is at least 95% homologous to~~ SEQ. ID. No. 1, wherein the protein is capable of selectively binding to a DNA regulatory sequence comprising CAACA in the plant so that a ~~cold~~ or drought regulatory gene is expressed; ~~and~~
 - b) exposing said plant to ~~cold~~ or drought stress so that ~~the~~ said transcription regulating protein in the plant is expressed.
- 13 – 16. (Canceled)
17. (Withdrawn) Plant material transformed with DNA encoding a cold-regulated transcription factor.
- 18 – 19. (Canceled)
- 20 (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein said transformation is by effected by *Agrobacterium tumerfaciens*.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein said gene is operably linked to a promoter.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein said promoter is constitutive.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein said promoter is inducible.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein said promoter is tissue specific.
25. (Canceled)
26. (New) A method for regulating cold regulatory genes in a plant comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a plant transformed with a gene encoding a transcription regulating protein encoded by SEQ. ID. No. 1, wherein the protein is capable of selectively binding to a DNA regulatory sequence comprising CAACA in the plant so that a cold regulatory gene is expressed;
 - b) exposing said plant to cold so that said transcription regulating protein in the plant is expressed.
27. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein said transformation is by effected by *Agrobacterium tumerfaciens*.
28. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein said gene is operably linked to a promoter.
29. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said promoter is constitutive.
30. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said promoter is inducible.
31. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said promoter is tissue specific.